

## **Edwards Secures \$332,500 to Renovate Groesbeck Park and \$250,000 for County Law Enforcement**

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Chet Edwards announced that the City of Groesbeck will receive \$332,500 in federal funding to renovate Groesbeck City Park. The funding was included by Edwards in the final 2009 Appropriations bill, which passed the House today by a vote of 245 to 178. Also included in the bill is \$250,000 for local law enforcement efforts to combat crime and slow the spread of illegal drugs in Limestone County.

“I am thrilled that thousands of Limestone County families will be able to enjoy this beautiful new park for years to come,” said Edwards. It will provide not only jobs in the near future, but a family friendly place for the citizens of Groesbeck to gather together.”

The \$332,500 Edwards secured will allow the City of Groesbeck to renovate Groesbeck City Park. The new city park will serve as a community gathering place and a source of community unity and pride. Phase 1 will complete renovations including landscaping, equipment, including a playground, covered pavilions and trails. A phase II will eventually relocate the civic center and city library to a new building constructed on a back portion of the park.

Groesbeck Mayor Jackie Levingston said, “The news of additional funding for our city park cleared a path to better facilities for all of the people in this area, from our youth to our seniors. Congressman Edwards’ assistance in providing this funding will allow us to complete a greater phase of this needed project. The goals we are able to complete with this funding will infuse our economy by providing work for some of our citizens during construction and the ability to host activities that will bring people into the City.”

Also included in the Appropriations bill is \$250,000 to support local law enforcement. As a rural county, Limestone has faced issues with drug dealers both trafficking drugs from Limestone County to metro areas in Austin and Dallas-Forth Worth, as well as the growing popularity of home-made methamphetamines. Currently, Limestone County has only one full-time officer dedicated to narcotics enforcement. Approximately \$150,000 of the funds secured by Edwards will help local law enforcement bring together officers from the county to complete drug investigations.

“As the father of two young sons, I am deeply committed to doing everything possible to protect our communities from crime,” said Edwards, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. “These funds will help Limestone County law enforcement officers fight crime, arrest drug dealers, and keep our children safe from the devastation of illegal drugs.”

“Our goal is to create safer neighborhoods and roadways by putting criminals in jail and to send out a clear message that they will be tracked down and prosecuted if they try to traffic drugs in Limestone County,” said Edwards.

In addition, \$100,000 of the federal funds will help Limestone County purchase and install 10 new Mobile Data Terminals, new video equipment and compatible software installation to upgrade communications in law enforcement vehicles.

“This will help local law enforcement officers respond more quickly to emergency calls with the information they need to protect local citizens. In the case of potentially dangerous suspects, this could mean the difference between life and death for officers and the law-abiding citizens they are protecting,” said Edwards.